

Message Text

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16

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APPROVED BY EUR:WSTABLER

EUR/CE - MR. LEDSKY

EUR/P - MR. GEHRON

S/PRS - MR. KING

NSC:MR. CLIFT

S/S:WHLUERS

----- 035261

R 040120Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMCONSUL STUTTGART

UNCLAS STATE 092245

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SGEN, GW

SUBJECT: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ON
GERMAN/AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK

1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF GERMAN/AMERICAN
FRIENDSHIP WEEK TO CAPTAIN PICKETT LUMPKIN, PRESIDENT,
FEDERATION OF GERMAN/AMERICAN CLUBS, HEADQUARTERS, UNITED
STATES EUROPEAN COMMAND, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE, APO NEW
YORK 09128.

2. BEGIN TEXT. ON BEHALF OF ALL AMERICANS, I AM PLEASED
TO EXTEND MY SINCERE BEST WISHES ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
GERMAN/AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK.
YOU HAVE MY GOOD WISHES FOR CONTINUED SUCCESS.

--- RICHARD M NIXON END TEXT

3. FYI FOLLOWING IS LETTER FROM CAPTAIN LUMPKIN REQUESTING
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PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE.

4. BEGIN QUOTE. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: GERMAN/AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP WEEK, A SYMBOLIC OBSERVANCE OF THE TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES, WILL MARK ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC ON 5 MAY 1974. THE WEEK OFFERS A

BROAD PROGRAM OF EVENTS (SPORTS, EXHIBITS, CONCERTS, OPEN HOUSES, DANCES, HIKING, ETC.) FOR GERMANS AND AMERICANS AT ALL SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEVELS. THE FEDERATION OF GERMAN/AMERICAN CLUBS (36 CLUBS, WITH MORE THAN 5,000 MEMBERS) BEGAN THIS OBSERVANCE ON A NATIONAL LEVEL IN 1954.

5. FRIENDSHIP WEEK WILL BEGIN THIS YEAR WITH AN OPENING CEREMONY IN STUTTGART, GERMANY, ON 5 MAY. KEY SPEAKERS AT THIS OCCASION WILL BE AMBASSADOR MARTIN HILLENBRAND AND DR. HANS FILBINGER, THE MINISTER PRESIDENT OF THE STATE OF BADEN-WURTTENBERG. IN HIS REMARKS, DR. FILBINGER WILL PAY SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SECRETARY OF STATE JAMES F. BYRNES (WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN 90 ON 5 MAY 1974). THE MINISTER PRESIDENT WILL UNVEIL A PLAQUE IN THE STATE THEATER WHERE SECRETARY BYRNES GAVE HIS "SPEECH OF HOPE" IN 1946. THAT SPEECH, WHICH THE GERMANS ARE NOT LIKELY TO FORGET, MARKED A POSITIVE TURNING POINT IN POST-WAR AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS GERMANY.

6. LAST YEAR FOR OUR OPENING CEREMONY CHANCELLOR BRANDT SENT US A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM (COPY WITH ENGLISH TRANSLATION ENCLOSED). I HAVE EVERY ASSURANCE THAT HE WILL DO THE SAME THIS YEAR.

7. THIS YEAR, IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS IMPORTANT OBSERVANCE, WE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY HONORED TO RECEIVE A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. END QUOTE.

8. DEPARTMENT DOES NOT PLAN TO RELEASE TEXT BUT GERMAN/AMERICAN CLUB MAY DO SO IF IT WISHES. RUSH

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